

I write today to support the following bill:

H.B. 5448 - AN ACT AGGREGATING YEARS OF SERVICE IN THE PROBATE JUDGES AND EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM AND THE MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM AND CLARIFYING THE RETIREMENT INCOME FOR CERTAIN RETIREES

https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&which_year=2016&bill_num=5448

The bill has direct impact on me. I previously served as the Probate Judge for the District of Windsor Locks until that court was merged into a combined district serving Bloomfield, East Granby, Suffield and Windsor Locks. I have 6+ years of credited service under the Probate Court Retirement System but a person does not vest in that system until he or she has 10 years of credited service. In November 2015, I was elected to serve as the First Selectman of the Town of Windsor Locks. As such, I participate in the Municipal Employees Retirement System. I have been informed that my years of service as Probate Judge will not be credited toward MERS service. I believe that all public service should be counted toward credited service. I wish to thank Senator Kissel for introducing this bill and the Labor Committee for considering it.

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